

Supporting Local Projects & People Helps Our Economy

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Bad news about the economy just keeps on coming. This month, we learned that the unemployment rate has hit its highest level in almost a decade. The national deficit is the highest in our nation's history. Three million jobs have vanished from our economy since 2001. Unfortunately, we here in Western New York are all too familiar with bad economic times.

My top priority is steering our economy out of this nosedive. And I believe firmly that the best way to strengthen our economy is to support our workers, our families and our small businesses - the engines of our economy. It is hard for me to believe that passing large tax cuts for people who make over a \$1 million a year and waiting for those benefits to trickle down to the rest of us will help this sick economy recover.

Real recovery starts at a more fundamental level: giving tax relief to working families and securing local jobs. I have been working in Washington to expand the federal Child Tax Credit

to more of our working families - a proposal that will help 31,000 families in my district and put dollars in the hands of moms and dads who will go out and spend the money. I also recently authored legislation that would direct the military to buy equipment from American manufacturers. Requiring the military to buy American will help keep jobs here in the United States and in Western New York.

Another way to boost the economy is to support local projects that can create jobs and strengthen communities. I was pleased to announce last week that the House Appropriations Committee approved \$400,000 for the Delaware Avenue Streetscape project in Kenmore. This funding will be used to complete the revitalization of Delaware Avenue - repairing sidewalks, adding lighting, parking meters, benches and new landscaping. Not only will this project help make Delaware Avenue a more pleasant place, it will help attract and maintain businesses along this main street, which will in turn create jobs and bring in tax revenue.

We need to grow our economy from the base up. Supporting our families, protecting jobs and funding local projects is smart economic policy. I will continue to fight in Washington for ways to jumpstart this economy on a community level so we can get Western New York - and the nation - back on track.